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Mak language

The **Mak language** (Chinese: 莫语; autonym: *ˈai3 ma꞉k8*)[3] is a Kam–Sui language spoken in Libo County, Qiannan Prefecture, Guizhou, China. It is spoken mainly in the four townships of Yangfeng 羊/阳风乡 (including Dali 大利村 and Xinchang 新场村 dialects[4]), Fangcun 方村, Jialiang 甲良, and Diwo 地莪 in Jialiang District 甲良, Libo County. Mak speakers can also be found in Dushan County. Mak is spoken alongside Ai-Cham and Bouyei.[5] The Mak are officially classified as Bouyei by the Chinese government.

Mak	
ˈai3 ma꞉k8	
Native to	China
Region	Libo County, southern Guizhou
Ethnicity	10,000 (2000)[1]
Native speakers	5,000 (2007)[1]
Language family	Kra–Dai ▪ Kam–Sui ▪ **Mak**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`mkg`
Glottolog	`makc1235 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/makc1235)`[2]

Yang (2000) considers Ai-Cham and Mak to be different dialects of the same language.

The Fangcun was first studied by Fang-Kuei Li in 1942, and the Yangfeng dialect was studied in the 1980s by Dabai Ni of the Minzu University of China.[5] Ni also noted that the Mak people only sing Bouyei folk songs, and that about 5,000 Mak people have shifted to the Bouyei language.

References

1. Mak (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/mkg/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Mak (China)" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/makc1235). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. See Proto-Tai_language#Tones for an explanation of the tone codes.
4. Ni Dabai [倪大白]. 2010. *侗台语概论 [An introduction to Kam-Tai languages]*, p.249. Beijing: Ethnic Publishing House [民族出版社]. ISBN 978-7-105-10582-3
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